The City of Greensboro Stream Corridor Reforestation Project







Presented by:

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Purpose:

To develop and implement a vegetation maintenance and management strategy for all publicly owned and maintained stream segments which, at a minimum:

- 1. Protects water quality and reduces stream bank erosion.
- 2. Promotes education & awareness of stream ecology.
- 3. Improves aquatic habitat and diversity.

How we got here?

- 1994 Stream Green of the Audubon Society requested various "No Mow" zones throughout City.
- 1999 City Staff and community representatives developed a plan to create stream buffers along all publicly owned and actively maintained stream segments.
- 2000 City Staff to have approximately 60 miles of stream banks reforested within the city limits during a 3 year period.

How we got here (con't):

- 1999 Storm Water Services (SWS) initiated a Stream Maintenance Guidelines Committee to develop ways of creating buffers along our streams.
- Committee members included:
 - ✓ Neighborhood representatives,
 - ✓ Business community,
 - ✓ Development community,
 - ✓ Environmental community,
 - ✓ Educational/Academic community,
 - ✓ SWS, Parks & Rec., and GDOT.

Guidelines were created to:

- Protect, preserve and improve water quality conditions.
- Maintain consistency when dealing with community concerns.
- ✓ Complement existing efforts in:
 - Watershed master planning.
 - Recent ordinance changes (buffers required for new development).
 - ◆ Formal stream restoration projects.

Desired Outcomes Include:

- ✓ Buffers will utilize a two-zoned approach.
 - Zone 1 up to a 50' vegetated buffer (each side of creek).
 - Zone 2 consisting of existing vegetation (turf grasses).
- / Access points for:
 - Utility lines
 - Recreational activity
 - Periodic visual access
- ✓ Planting of trees/shrubs/flowers, etc.
 - to accelerate the natural "volunteer" growth.
 - * a maintenance crew to maintain plantings.
- ✓ Buffer variations

Buffer variations:

- ✓ In areas where public safety is of concern.
- ✓ In and around play grounds/athletic fields.
- ✓ Periodic access for recreation or visual observation.
- ✓ Buffer width may vary, depending on site limitations.
- ✓ Periodic access for utilities/easement maintenance.
- Around road crossings and foot bridges.

1. Streams have been degraded.





2. Stream's natural ability to function has been limited.





3. Streams are a valuable community resource and should be protected.



4. Stream buffers could provide an alternative to more expensive BMP's.



How Will We Implement Buffers?

- 1. By changing the way our communities streams are regarded.
 - ✓ Educational/Informational Campaign. Local streams are commonly regarded as drainage ditches - we're trying to change that perception.
- 2. By changing maintenance practices to more environmentally friendly methods.
 - ✓ Alternative maintenance efforts less heavy equipment and more hand crews along our stream banks.
- 3. By helping restore our streams natural ability to function.
 - ✓ Planting trees along streams.
 - ✓ Implementing vegetative buffers.

When Will We Implement? Phase I/II - Fall 1999 to Spring 2001

- Initiation of public education campaign.
- Initiate committee to address citizen concerns.
- Begin planting trees along streams.
- Maintenance crew established.



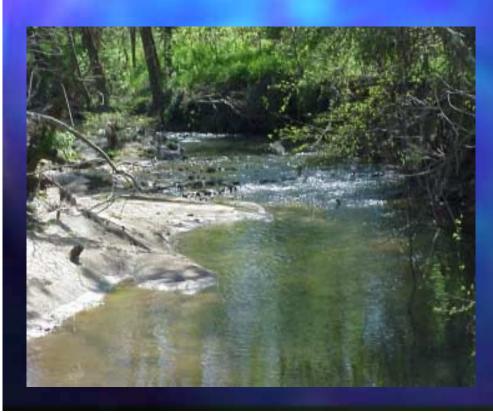
When Will We Implement? Phase III/IV - Spring 01 to Winter 03

- Ocontinue public education campaign.
- Oup to a 50' buffer established.
- Maintenance crew continues efforts.
- Finish planting trees along streams.



Primary benefits of buffers:

- Improved water quality
- Increased diversity of aquatic life
- Decreased erosion





Secondary benefits of buffers:

- Diverse recreation areas
- Filter air and noise pollution
- Improve diversity of wildlife habitat





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